

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01
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P R 151128Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5561
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 8922

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP PL UR
SUBJ: VISIT OF KOSYGIN TO POLAND

REF: (A) WARSAW 8881, (B) WARSAW 8859

1. SUMMARY: THE POLISH PRESS ANNOUNCED IN ITS DECEMBER 14 EDITIONS THAT SOVIET PREMIER ALEKSEY KOSYGIN AND A THREE-MAN DELEGATION HAD ARRIVED IN WARSAW ON DECEMBER 13. KOSYGIN WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY POLISH PREMIER PIOTR JAROSZEWICZ. WHILE THE OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF KOSYGIN'S TRIP WAS TO TAKE PART IN OPENING CEREMONIES AT THE HUTA KATOWICE STEEL WORKS, PRESS REPORTS SUGGEST THAT BROADER ECONOMIC ISSUES MAY HAVE BEEN A MORE IMPORTANT FACTOR. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A BREAK FROM PRECEDENT, THE VISIT OF SOVIET PREMIER KOSYGIN TO WARSAW ON DECEMBER 13 WAS NOT ANNOUNCED PREVIOUSLY IN THE POLISH PRESS. (COMMENT: OFFICIAL VISITS ARE NORMALLY CARRIED IN THE POLISH MEDIA TWO OR THREE DAYS IN ADVANCE. END COMMENT). KOSYGIN CAME WITH SEMYON SKACHKOV, CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE COMMISSION FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, IVAN KAZANYETS, THE MINISTER FOR THE STEEL INDUSTRY, AND VLADIMIR ZHIGALIN, THE MINISTER FOR
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HEAVY MACHINERY AND TRANSPORTATION. GREETING KOSYGIN AT THE

AIRPORT WERE PREMIER PIOTR JAROSZEWICZ, AND PARTY AND GOVERNMENT FIGURES INCLUDING EDWARD BABIUCH, MIECZYSLAW JAGIELSKI, STEFAN OLSZOWSKI, JAN SZYDLAK, TADEUSZ WRZASZCZYK, AND ALOJZY KARKOWSKA. THE SOVIET DELEGATION IS HERE TO TAKE PART IN INAUGURAL CEREMONIES OF THE HUTA KATOWICE, ACCORDING TO THE POLISH MEDIA.

3. ALSO ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK WAS IN KATOWICE ON DECEMBER 13 ATTENDING A PARTY ECONOMIC MEETING WITH KATOWICE PARTY FIRST SECRETARY ZDZISLAW GRUDZIEN. (COMMENT: THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT GIEREK HAS NOT SHOWN UP AT A KOSYGIN ARRIVAL. IN AUGUST, 1975, GIEREK WAS REPORTEDLY VACATIONING IN THE SOUTH OF POLAND WHEN KOSYGIN ARRIVED. HE LATER RECEIVED THE SOVIET PREMIER THERE. END COMMENT.)

4. ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION TOOK PART IN PLENARY DISCUSSIONS ON MONDAY AFTERNOON. PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS HIGHLIGHT THEIR ECONOMIC CONTENT. IN TALKS WHICH WERE DESCRIBED AS HAVING TAKEN PLACE "AS ALWAYS, IN A VERY FRIENDLY AND WARM ATMOSPHERE", INFORMATION ABOUT THE REALIZATION OF ECONOMIC PLANS IN THE USSR AND POLAND WAS EXCHANGED, AND DISCUSSIONS CONTINUED ON THE RAW MATERIALS QUESTION, FUTURE STAGES OF THE HUTA KATOWICE AND THE SOVIET-GAUGE RAILWAY LINE TO THE KATOWICE COMPLEX. PRESS REPORTS STRESS, AS DURING THE GIEREK VISIT TO THE USSR, THAT POLAND'S RELATIONS WITH THE USSR HAVE ENTERED INTO A "NEW STAGE" OF DEVELOPMENT.

5. KOSYGIN AND HIS DELEGATION TOOK PART IN CEREMONIES COMMEMORATING THE OPENING OF THE HUTA KATOWICE ON DECEMBER 14. (AN ANALYSIS OF GIEREK'S AND KOSYGIN'S SPEECHES FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.) NOTHING HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT WHEN KOSYGIN WILL LEAVE POLAND.

6. COMMENT: WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHY SO MUCH SECRECY WAS ATTACHED TO THIS VISIT. OUR DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS HERE ARE EQUALLY IN THE DARK. CEREMONIAL FLAGS WERE PLACED ON PROMINENT WARSAW STREETS ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, BUT FEW GOVERNMENTAL FIGURES APPEAR TO HAVE HAD ADVANCE NOTICE OF KOSYGIN'S ARRIVAL. THE SOVIET EMBASSY APPARENTLY WAS ALSO TAKEN BY SURPRISE. END COMMENT.
BROWN

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